

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00176 211655Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 211125Z FEB 76 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4968

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0176

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 1. LINE 14 SHOULD READ  
KAUNDA VICE BANDA)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJ: BRITISH-RHODESIAN CONTACTS ABOUT SETTLEMENT

1. HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE WITH CLOSE CONTACTS WITH SMITH  
REGIME INFORMS ME THAT IN PAST THREE DAYS THERE HAS BEEN  
DIRECT EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BRITISH FOREIGN  
SECRETARY CALLAHAN AND SMITH. SOURCE SAID THAT LATE LAST WEEK  
SMITH SENT OUT INDIRECT FEELERS THROUGH PRESIDENT BANDA THAT  
HE WAS INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH BRITISH. CALLAHAN SENT  
MESSAGE AFTER HEARING THESE SIGNALS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE  
UNDERSTOOD THAT SMITH NOW WANTED DIRECT TALKS WITH UK, POINTING  
OUT SERIOUSNESS OF FAILURE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND STRESSING THE  
NEED FOR "A MODIFICATION IN RHODESIAN ATTITUDE IF SETTLEMENT  
IS TO BE ACHIEVED" AND "FLEXIBILITY" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. SMITH  
HAS RESPONDED WITH A MESSAGE REFERRING TO CHANGED CIRCUM-  
STANCES CREATED BY SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND DANGER  
OF KAUNDA THROWING IN HIS LOT WITH THE SOVIETS. SMITH NOTED  
THAT AN EARLY RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT WOULD EASE THE PRESSURE ON  
ZAMBIA BY ALLOWING USE OF RHODESIAN RAILROAD. UK INVOLVEMENT,  
SMITH CONTINUED, WOULD NOW BE HELPFUL. SMITH ACCEPTED THE  
NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AND SUGGESTED THAT AS FIRST STEP  
CALLAHAN SEND SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE. SMITH CONCLUDED  
MESSAGE BY NOTING THAT INFLAMATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHOULD  
BE AVOIDED.

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2. SOURCE SAID THAT BRITISH RESPONSE EXPECTED MOMENTARILY AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FAVORABLE. WHILE NOT EUPHORIC, SOURCE FELT THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT SUCCEED AS HE FELT THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT SMITH'S SINCERITY. SOURCE CHARACTERIZED SMITH'S COMMENTS IN RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 20 ABOUT STATEMENTS MADE BY CALLAHAN AND ENNALS IN LONDON AS "FOR ATMOSPHERICS." SOURCE INDICATED SA PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WAS INFORMED OF CONTACTS AND HAD BEEN ASKED TO KEEP LID ON ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SA.

3. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT FOREGOING TO LONDON AND LUSAKA.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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